

Residential Fire Sprinklers for New Child Care and Adult Foster Care Facilities

Overview

As of April 2021, new child care or adult foster care facilities in a residential home must have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system – or take other safety measures approved by the local building official – to protect the children or adults in their care (see Oregon Residential Specialty Code Chapter 1, Section R101.2.1).

Introducing a nonresidential use into a home greatly increases the fire and life safety risk. Installing a fire sprinkler system or taking other locally approved safety measures will help reduce this safety risk.

Where required

This requirement applies to both of the following uses in a home:

- **New child care facilities** as identified in ORS 329A, including newly certified or registered family child care homes.
- **New adult foster care facilities** as defined by ORS 443.

This applies only to new construction or the new use of an existing home. If a home has not been approved for use as a child care or adult foster care facility, the home must comply with this new requirement. If the home is approved – or had been previously approved – for use as a child care or adult foster care facility, the home does not have to comply with this new requirement.

Examples:

When this requirement **does** apply:

- Constructing a new home that will be used as a care facility.
- Opening a new care facility in a home not previously approved.
- Relocating a care facility to a different home not previously approved.

When this requirement **does not** apply:

- Currently operating a care facility in an approved home.
- Opening or reopening a care facility in an approved home.
- Changing licenses in an approved home.
- Changing ownership from one license to a new license in an approved home.
- Licensing exempt providers.

For more information about the change, go to [Oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/techb-scope-care-facilities.pdf](https://oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/techb-scope-care-facilities.pdf)

Contact your local building department

A licensed contractor must design and install the fire sprinkler system in accordance with state standards. Local building officials may approve other safety measures instead of a fire sprinkler system. For example, a building official can accept more exit doors from care spaces, household fire alarm systems, and perhaps fire-rated construction, instead of a residential sprinkler system. Each home would require an individual evaluation. For information, contact the local building official: [Oregon.gov/bcd/lbdd](https://oregon.gov/bcd/lbdd).